

R

ule of Thirds

The rule of thirds is a compositional rule of thumb in visual arts such as painting, photography and design.

History:

If you're a new photographer, you will hear about this rule time, and time again... but there is a reason for it – It's extremely important! Like the title says, the **rule of thirds** is your number one recipe to an awesome photo! The **rule of thirds** is often referred to as the rule of thirds grid, rule of the thirds, golden ration, or as the rule of thirds photography. It has been floating around our world since roughly the 1800's when painting was a very popular form of art. The older term, called *the golden mean*, has been around for years, back when the Greeks roamed the earth and built spiralling temples!

Rule of Thirds Photography

Now... I have a book full of recipes but I often add my own twist while cooking. I do the same with the **rule of thirds**. This rule is a general standard to create a well balanced shot, however it is OK to break it – it often depends on your subject. Maybe in a certain circumstance your photo will have more power with a centred shot.

The basics of the rule of thirds:

9 equal boxes

4 intersecting points

2 vertical lines

2 horizontal lines



By placing interesting pieces of your image at these points, you can make your image well balanced and help let viewers naturally move through your image.

It's common to have standing people matching one of the vertical lines, or landscapes follow the horizontal lines.

I have had many comments saying that rules are meant to be broken, but the fact of the

matter is – the **rule of thirds** will ultimately improve the composition of your images. It is a great building block to improve your photography skills! The brain naturally moves towards features in the photo that have been aligned along the rule of thirds, making your photo already one step better than the plain image without this simple rule! Now I previously said rules are meant to be broken, but I'm going to clear this up now so that I'm not contradicting myself. The rule of thirds is just a simple, standard rule that will generally improve your photography – but in certain type of shots (such as product shots) you may feel the need to break the rule to restore balance to the photo.

